12.

THE

LIFE

OF

Titus Oats

From His

CRADLE

To his first

PILLORING

For Infamous

PERJURY;

With a True Account of his Birth and Parentage: Impartially set forth for the satisfaction of all Persons.

Enter'd according to Order.

Titus Oats, the infamous Subject of the Discourse of this Age, (whose detestable Memory, together with the Villanie of those that abbetted him, and the folly of those that believed will be the Execration of Future Ages) was born at *Okam* in the County of *Rutland*, of mean Parentage: His Father was one *Samuel Oats* born at *Norwich*, and brought up there in Weaving *Norwich* Stuff, the chief Manifactor of that Town; in the time of Civil Broyls, he step'd from the Loom into the Pulpit, where he retailed Sedition and Nonsense to the *Baptists*, being accounted among them a Famous Preacher and a real Gifted Brother; he was not content to give those of his Tribe common Washing, but souced and douced them so that he drowned a Holy Sister in the dipping, for the which he narrowly escaped hanging afterwards: When the King came in, he wheel'd about with the Times and got a Benefice at *Hastings*. which he lost for his Misdemeanors and suspicion of *Perjury* against Old Mr. *Parker*, and came here to *London*, and dyed at the *Half-Moon* in *King-street* some two Years ago, living there several Years under vehement suspition of *Adulterie*; I should not here rake into his Ashes, but to shew that *Titus Oats* (as the Proverb says) *Was the bad Egg of an Ill Crow*, and that he was fitted by his depraved Education for the Villanies he has since Committed.

Titus

Titus Oats till he was Five Years of Age was much troubled with *Convulsion-Fits* and ſmall hopes of Life; but afterwards growing ſtronger, was brought up by his Father from *Okam* to *London*, where in that time he was ſo Famous for Lying amongſt his Companions, that ſeveral did preſage his future Villanies, and that one time or another if he was not taken off by the hand of Juſtice, he would put whole Kingdoms in *Convulſions*. He went for ſome time to *Weſtminſter* School but profitted little in Learning, his Genious being wholly bent to Baſeneſs and Villanie: Afterwards when his Father had procured by his ſeeming Conformity a Beneſice at *Haſtings* he took his hopeful Sprig, *Titus* down with him, and Baptized him at the Age of 12 Years having ſome principal People of the Town for Godfathers and Godmothers, after he had continued ſome few Years with his Father at *Haſtings*; he was ſent to the Univerſity of *Cambridge* where he was equally remarkable for his Dulneſs, and he giving there a moſt remarkable Inſtance of his Roguery. He bought a Gown of a Poor Taylor, and when he was Dun'd for the money, he ſwore before his Tutor that he would take the Sacrament upon it that he had pay'd him; being asked by his Tutor how he came by ſo much money, ſince all money paſt through his hands, he ſaid it was privately ſent him by his Mother by a Carrier, and Named him; the Carrier afterwards being called, he neither knew *Oats*, nor any thing of the matter. *Oats* was now but a freſh man as to his ſtanding in the Univerſity, but a Maſter of Arts in Lying and Swearing: After he had ſtaid ſome ſmall time in the Univerſity, being Notorious for all ſorts of Debaucheries; he was called home by his Father to be his *Vicar* at *Haſtings*, his Father by this means preventing his being expelled the Univerſity, which he having neither Wit nor Learning preſently became the ſcandal of the Pulpit, inſomuch that the Fiſherwoman pulled him out of the Pulpit during his abode at *Haſtings*; he was always quarrelling, and by Lyes and Falſe Sedition ſetting Neighbours by the Ears, and afterwards Notoriouſly forſwore himſelf in the Caſe of Mr. *Parker* Junior, which is related by people vvorthy of all Credit as follovvs.

There happened to be a Quarrel betvveen Young Mr. *Parker* and this *Famoſo*; upon vvhich *Oats* vvas heard to ſay, that he vvould have the lives of ſome of that Family in a ſhort time, the Father Old *Samuel Oats* ſvvore Treaſon againſt Mr. *Parker* Senior and ſo made him be ſent for up to *London* in the Intrim. *Titus* ſvvore a deteſtable *Crime* againſt Young *Parker*, ſaid to be committed in the *Church-Porch*: Mr. *Parker* Senior quickly got quit becauſe the thing vvas found to be mere malice, but it vvent harder vvith *Parker* Junior for it came to the dangerous Event of a Tryal; but at the Tryal Mr. *Parker* Junior proved by ſeveral Witneſſes that he vvas at another place at that day, and that *Maſons* and other Workmen vvorking about the *Church* it vvas impoſſible to commit ſuch an Offence vvithout being diſcovered by them; upon vvhich Mr. *Parker* Junior at laſt vvas quit, and *Oats* vvas preſently clap'd up in the *Goal* in his place, for ſpeaking ſcandalous things of Mr. *Parker*; there he continued a conſideraqle time but at laſt got a *Certiorary* to be removed to *Dover* one of the *Cinque Ports*, (he pretending he could have no Juſtice there becauſe the *Parkers* vvere the chief Magiſtrates of the Tovvn) there after ſome time he got out, and it is generally reported that he broke the Priſon and ſo got to *London*; vvhen he vvas at *London* he found himſelf at a great loſs and ſo betook himſelf to his old trade of Lying and Svvearing.

He pretended he had made a Diſcovery of a *Church*, of vvhich his Grace *Henry* late DUKE of *Norfolk* he ſaid vvas Lavvful Patron, and ſo he made Friends to his Grace vvho promiſed him the Beneſice in caſe he could make an Effectual Diſcovery, and in the Intrim he gave him for

ſome

ſome months the Title of one of his Honorry *Chaplains*, but that project failing he then began to pretend ſcruples in points of Religion, & that he was not well ſatisfied with the *Church* of *Englands* Doctrine, and ſhe as little with his Practice and Example. After he had diſcourſed ſome members of the *Roman Communion*, he was as he pretended all on Fire to be joyned to it and reſolved to become a new man, and ſo at laſt he was admitted; then nothing vvould ſerve his turn but he vvould needs become an Apoſtle, and reduce all as he ſaid to the Antient *Faith*, thoſe vvhom he tranſacted this Affair vvith being vvholly ignorant of his former flagitious Life, vvere prevailed vvith, by his *Seminary* Zeal to give him Commendations for the Engliſh Seminary at *Vallodolid* in *Spain* by the Name of *Titus Oats*; there he had not been long, but he gave many Evident Proofs of his Encorigable Nature and Blockiſhneſs; ſo being a conſtant Quarreller, and *Combattant* with the Servants and found altogether unfit to proceed any farther, after ſome Two *Months* time he was diſmiſſed that *Colledge* and took Ship at *Bilboe* and ſo came for *England*, never coming near *Salamanca*, of which Famous Univerſity he pretended to be a Doctor.

After he came into *England* he began to be very troubleſome to his Romiſh Acquaintance, ſtill pretending great Zeal, and that he miſcarried at *Vallodolid* only becauſe he did not underſtand the Humour of the *Spainyards*, who were ſuperiors of that *Colledge*; and ſo at laſt he prevailed with them to give him a ſecond Recommendation to St. *Omers*, hoping he ſhould give them better ſatisfaction in a Seminary of all Engliſh; and there he was received by the Name of *Sampſon*, a Name that ſomething ſquared to his Atchievements; for he killed as many men almoſt as *Sampſon*, and that by the ſame Inſtrument, the *Jaw-Bone of an Aſſe*, (and after ſet Fire on the *Foxes* Tails:) He came thither about *December* 1677. having been but the *Summer* before at *Vallodolid*; he had not been long there, but he began to be as remarkable as he had been at *Vallodolid*: The Boyes for his folly and ſtupidneſs flocking about him as ſmall Birds do about an *Owle*, ſo that he was judged by all very unfit to go on to higher Studies not being able to ſpeak two words of true *Latin*, as is evident by what was proved lately in Court againſt him, and by his own eſſaying to read the Year of our Lord, out of figures into Latin words; and beſides he was very proud and diſobedient, ſlighting the deſcipline of the Houſe, and perpetually murmuring and ſpeaking ill of the *Royal Family*; ſo that at laſt they reſolved to diſmiſs him, having received his Character from *Vallodolid*; accordingly he was turned out about the middle of *June* 1678.

There is one thing very remarkable happened the Night before his Diſmiſſion, which is as follows.

There is by Relation a private *Oratory* in the Seminary where the Students do their private Devotions; there being there an Altar and a Crucifix, one of the Superiors of the Houſe coming late to do his Devotion, obſerved that Mr. *Sampſon* was got upon the Altar, and his hand upon the hand of the Crucifix; he asked him what he was doing, he replyed he was taking leave of Jeſus Chriſt; at his Diſmiſſion he ſaid to ſeveral of the Students, he would be revenged of the *Jeſuits* to the full for denying him Entrance into their Order, and for turning him out of the *Colledge*, both which it ſeems he has in great part performed. After he came over into *England* again, he went ſculking up and down the Town among the Romaniſts and was very troubleſome, being perpetually begging ſomething for a poor Student and a converted Miniſter, who had Voluntarily left a great Benefice for to Embrace the *Catholick Faith*, which moved the Charity of ſeveral to thoſe that he thought were no great Friends of the *Jeſuits*; he made great complaints, and threatned

ned them ſore; he told ſome of the *Jeſuits* (who afterwards by the Virtue of his Oath were Executed,) that if they would not by ſuch a time furniſh him with ſuch a Sum of *Money* they ſhould all repent it; they knowing their own Conſcience, looking on him as a mere Vagabond and Scoundrel, took no notice of what he ſaid knowing his Majeſties Clemencie, and never ſuſpecting that he would take ſuch a Diabolical Courſe as ſwearing of Treaſon, but only inform of them as being Prieſts: *Oats* in the mean time was Caballing with Dr. *Tongue* and the Earl of *Shaftsbury*.

It's generally ſuppoſed that *Tongue* drew up his *Narrative*: *Oats* being among the *Jeſuits* as you have heard for ſometime could furniſh them with Names of ſeveral; but they drew up the Method of the pretended Treaſon, and altered it afterwards according as they found the Pulſe of the Nation beat. About the middle of *Auguſt* they thought all things were ready for a ſham Diſcovery, and ſo was the *Brat* Midwifed into the World, which after the unveterate Malice of ſome, and the Folly and Madneſs of others; grew in a ſhort time into that great Gyant that like another *Goliah* defyed the *Arms of the Living Lord*.

After the ſitting of the Parliament which was in *October* following, *Titus* came into that Credit, that at the Interceſſion of the Houſe of Commons; he had Ten Pounds a Week allowed him and a Guard, which Pention was continued till after the *Oxford* Parliament, where at the Tryal of *Stephen Colledge* *Oats* ſet up for an Evidence againſt the King, and at his return was forbid the Court; then he went and herded himſelf among the Factious Party of the City where he Caballed but was never truſted in the great Deſign; becauſe as Coll. *Rumſey* ſaid, he was too great a Rogue; however they maintained him very well, but his credit ſunk lower and lower, every day; and was quite ruined upon the Diſcovery of the *Phanatick Plot*: The *Summer* following he was clapt up into the *Kings-Bench*, upon an Action of *Scandalum Magnatum* againſt our preſent King, where he has behaved himſelf very inſolently and talked very baſely of the Royal Family, which by the Diſcovery of his pretended Plot, he pretended to have a great kindneſs for this *Term*: Upon the 9th. of *May*, and alſo upon the 10th. he was found out to be a great *Impoſter*, and to have falſely Perjured himſelf by above threeſcore Evidences, many of them Proteſtants; for which he is now to ſuffer ſeveral Penalties, Notoriouſly known to the World.

FINIS.

LONDON; Printed by *E. Mallet*, in *Black-Horſe-Alley* near *Fleet-bridge*, 1685.

134937